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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to an APPEAL BRIEF filed August 23, 2010 for application 10/575544.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-16 were rejected in the last Office Action dated March 17, 2010.

As a response to the March 17, 2010 office action, Applicant has filed an appeal brief.

To further clarify the record, this is a subsequent final office action using the same prior art and same 102e grounds of rejection to show further examples of prior art anticipation, such as the claimed "input means" anticipated by prior art "keypad button," as supported by applicant's specification, arguments, and dependent claims.

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harding (U.S. Publication Number: 2003/0114288).

As to independent claim 1, Harding discloses a control (e.g., controller 16) for a machine for the manufacture of paper padding (e.g., cushioning conversion machine for moving the paper material through the machine to create the dunnage material) (see Paragraph [0037] and [0042]), wherein the machine comprises a drive motor (e.g., feed motor 24) having a cutting device (e.g., cutting assembly 26) and a shaping device to form a piece of padding (e.g., forming assembly 20) from a paper web and to cut it off (e.g., cutting the dunnage product) in a desired length (e.g., desired length) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0038]), comprising an input means (e.g., keypad button) to input a desired length of padding (e.g., particular cut length) (see Paragraph [0046], [0077], and [0081]);

a control unit (e.g., controller 16) (see Paragraph [0037]) having a memory to control the drive motor in response to the input means (e.g., microprocessor 48 provides a signal to the feed motor through the feed motor port to feed material through the machine for the appropriate length of time to provide dunnage of the length which the operated selected from the keypad; processor 48 uses information to control the gear assembly 22 and thus uses this information to control pad lengths as well as to determine and store in non-volatile memory 230 the total length of pad produced) (see Paragraph [0046], [0077], and [0081]), wherein an activation of the input means (e.g., control pad lengths) starts the drive motor and a deactivation of the input means triggers a cutting procedure and stops the drive motor (e.g., activation/deactivation signals to the

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feed motor) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0081]) so that the time period of the activation of the input means corresponds to the length of padding produced (e.g., length of time that equates to inches of dunnage material) (see Paragraph [0046]-[0049]), and wherein the control unit (e.g., control pad lengths) (see Paragraphs [0046] and [0081]) automatically stores said length of padding produced in the memory on deactivation of the input means (e.g., activation/deactivation signals to store in the non-volatile memory the total length of pad produced) (see Paragraph [0081]) and makes it available for a further call up upon momentary activation of said input means (e.g., paper usage as well as other information stored in the non-volatile memory 230 may be made available for display when desirable) (see Paragraph [0077]) such that the length of padding just produced is automatically reproduced on request (e.g., microprocessor 48 then waits for the next key on the keypad to be depressed and repeats the process to produce the length of dunnage corresponding to the key depressed) (see Paragraph [0046]-[0049]).

As to independent claim 14, Harding discloses a machine for the manufacture of paper padding (e.g., pads produced by machine) (see Paragraph [0071]), comprising:

a drive motor (e.g., feed motor 24) having a cutting device (e.g., cutting assembly 26) and a shaping device (e.g., forming assembly 20) to shape a piece of padding from a paper web and to cut it off (e.g., cutting the dunnage product) in a desired length (e.g., desired length) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0038]); and

a control (e.g., controller 16) (see Paragraph [0037]) comprising:

an input means (e.g., keypad button) to input a desired length of padding (e.g., particular cut length) (see Paragraph [0046], [0077], and [0081]);

a control unit (e.g., controller 16) (see Paragraph [0037]) having a memory to control the drive motor in response to the input means (e.g., microprocessor 48 provides a signal to the feed motor through the feed motor port to feed material through the machine for the appropriate length of time to provide dunnage of the length which the operator selected from the keypad; processor 48 uses information to control the gear assembly 22 and thus uses this information to control pad lengths as well as to determine and store in non-volatile memory 230 the total length of pad produced) (see Paragraph [0046], [0077], and [0081]), wherein an activation of the input means (e.g., control pad lengths) starts the drive motor and a deactivation of the input means triggers a cutting procedure and stops the drive motor (e.g., activation/deactivation signals to the feed motor) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0081]) so that the time period of the activation of the input means corresponds to the length of padding produced (e.g., length of time that equates to inches of dunnage material) (see Paragraph [0046]-[0049]), and wherein the control unit (e.g., control pad lengths) (see Paragraphs [0046] and [0081]) automatically stores the length of padding produced in the memory on deactivation of the input means (e.g., activation/deactivation signals to store in the non-volatile memory the total length of pad produced) (see Paragraph [0081]) and makes it available for a further call up upon momentary activation of said input means (e.g., paper usage as well as other information stored in the non-volatile memory 230 may be made available for display when desirable) (see Paragraph [0077]) such that the length of

padding just produced is automatically reproduced upon request (e.g., microprocessor 48 then waits for the next key on the keypad to be depressed and repeats the process to produce the length of dunnage corresponding to the key depressed) (see Paragraph [0046]-[0049]).

As to dependent claim 2, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein the stored length of padding can be called up by an actuation, in particular a brief actuation, of the input means or of a further input means from the memory (e.g., paper usage as well as other information stored in the non-volatile memory 230 may be made available for display when desirable) (see Paragraph [0077]), with the manufacture of at least one further piece of padding being triggered automatically in the called up length on the call up of the length of padding (e.g., length of pads) (see Paragraph [0071] and [0086]).

As to dependent claim 3, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein the input means is an individual switch (e.g., foot switch) or push button (e.g., keypad buttons) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]); and

wherein an input pad (e.g., keypad) is provided in addition to the switch or push button (e.g., foot switch) with which desired lengths of padding can be input into the control and/or can be called up out of the control, with the manufacture of at least one piece of padding being triggered automatically in the called up length on the call up of a length of padding (e.g., length of each pad) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]).

As to dependent claim 4, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 3, wherein it permits a directly sequential call up of a respective length of padding with the

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switch or the push button (e.g., foot switch), on the one hand, and with the input pad (e.g., keypad), on the other hand, without a further input means of the control having to be actuated between these two call ups (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]).

As to dependent claim 5, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 3, wherein at least one additional switch or push button (e.g., foot switch; keypad buttons) is provided on whose actuation a standard length of padding stored in the memory is called up, with the manufacture of at least one piece of padding being triggered automatically in the called up length on the call up of the length of padding (e.g., length of each pad) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]).

As to dependent claim 6, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein a display device is provided (e.g., display; view in real-time) (see Paragraph [0077], [0071] and [0013]); and

wherein, when the control is switched on for the first time, a standard length of padding stored in the memory is displayed which can be called up by a further input means (e.g., display 54) (see Paragraph [0077]), with the manufacture of at least one piece of padding being triggered automatically in the called up length on the call up of the length of padding (e.g., length of pads) (see Paragraph [0071] and [0086]).

As to dependent claim 7, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein it has a mode (e.g., mode selection switch 52) (see Paragraph [0045]) in which a combination of the desired number and of the desired length of the pieces of padding to be produced can be at least one of stored and called up (e.g., required number and lengths of pads as determined by a look-up table) (see Paragraph [0086]).

As to dependent claim 8, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein an input means (e.g., keypad button) is provided with which a continuous manufacture of pieces of padding in the stored length of padding can be activated (e.g., length of each pad) (see Paragraph [0046]).

As to dependent claim 9, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 3, wherein the individual switch or push button (e.g., foot switch), the input pad (e.g., keypad) and an input means (e.g., keypad button) for the activation of a continuous manufacture (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]) are input means of equal priority for the call up of a length of padding, with the manufacture of at least one piece of padding being triggered automatically in the desired length on the call up of the length of padding (e.g., length of each pad) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]).

As to dependent claim 10, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein a selection switch (e.g., mode selection switch 52) is provided with which a plurality of memory locations can be selected in the memory in which a produced length of padding can be stored automatically, with the associated stored length of padding being produced in dependence on the position of the selection switch (e.g., mode selection switch 52), in particular on the activation of the input means (see Paragraph [0045]).

As to dependent claim 11, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 10, wherein a further input means (e.g., foot switch; keypad buttons) is respectively associated with the plurality of memory locations to call up a length of padding stored at the respective memory location (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]), with the

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manufacture of at least one piece of padding being automatically triggered in the called up length on the call up of the length of padding (e.g., length of each pad) (see Paragraph [0046] and [0053]).

As to dependent claim 12, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein a sensor is connected to it which detects the forthcoming end of the paper web (e.g., lack of paper; presence or absence of dunnage) (see Paragraph [0090] and [0047]); and

wherein the control generates a signal in response to the sensor which in particular interrupts a further operation of the machine at least temporarily (e.g., machine become inactive) (see Paragraph [0090] and [0047]).

As to dependent claim 13, Harding teaches a control in accordance with claim 1, wherein it has a connector for an electromagnetic coupling of an auxiliary unit (e.g., electronic dispensing system), with the control controlling the drive motor differently in dependence on whether the electromagnetic coupling is connected (e.g., mode selection switch 52), with the control preferably automatically recognizing whether an electromagnetic coupling is connected (e.g., electronic dispensing system) (see Paragraph [0045] and [0047]).

As to dependent claim 15, Harding teaches a machine in accordance with claim 14, wherein the control is made as a separate operating part which is connected to the machine via a cable, wherein a holder is in particular provided at the machine for the releasable installation of the control (e.g., cable connection) (see Paragraph [0107]).

As to dependent claim 16, Harding teaches a machine in accordance with claim 14, wherein a bus system is provided for the transmission of the control signals from the control to the machine (e.g., input bus 50) (see Paragraph [0053] and [0061]).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed August 23, 2010 have been fully considered. The arguments are not persuasive and do not overcome the original art rejection. The following are the Examiner's observations in regard thereto.

Examiner Note:

This is a subsequent final office action using the same prior art and same 102e grounds of rejection to show further examples of prior art anticipation, such as the claimed "input means" anticipated by prior art "keypad button," as supported by applicant's specification, arguments, and dependent claims.

Applicant Argues:

The length of time that the input means or push button 18 is suppressed is directly proportional to the length of paper padding produced. Thus, any variable length of paper padding may be produced by the machine and control unit of the present invention since the length of paper padding can be varied by simply varying the time of depression of the input means 18.

Examiner Responds:

Examiner is not persuaded. See prior art Paragraph [0046] for "for example, if an operator pushes button 12 on the keypad, and this button was preprogrammed to correspond to a length of 12 inches, the microprocessor 48 will signal the feed motor 24 and turn the feed motor on for a length of time that equates to 12 inches of

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dunnage material being fed out, and then the microprocessor will disable the feed motor,” an example of how the prior art clearly teaches the time period of the activation of the input means corresponds to the length of padding produced, as claimed. The claims as written, do not mention “the length of time of push button suppression is directly proportional to the length of paper padding produced” or “varying length of paper padding by varying the time of depression.” The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. Limitations appearing in applicant’s specification, drawings, or arguments but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. The specification or arguments is not the measure of the invention, limitations contained therein cannot be read into the claims for the purpose of avoiding the prior art; see In re Sprock, 55 CCPA 743, 386 F.2d 924, 155 USPQ 687 (1968). Under such considerations, because the claims do not specify “suppression” or “depression” the prior art anticipates the claims as written.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tejal J. Gami whose telephone number is (571) 270-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ALBERT DECADY/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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